

**What is claimed is:**

1           1.       A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system comprising:  
2                   a twist-lock latch configured to receive a handle of a debris receptacle; and  
3                   a vertical gasket to facilitate an air-tight seal between the debris receptacle  
4       and a canister of the central vacuum system.

1           2.       The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch  
2       comprises a contoured ramp configured to guide the handle portion of the debris  
3       receptacle into place.

1           3.       The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch  
2       comprises a stop detent to fully engage the debris receptacle into a lock position.

1           4.       The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the twist-lock latch  
2       does not include moving parts.

1           5.       The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket  
2       comprises a vertical sealing area.

1           6.       The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket  
2       includes a plurality of horizontal ribs to facilitate reduced friction and drag during  
3       engagement and disengagement of the locking mechanism.

1           7.       The locking mechanism of claim 6, wherein the plurality of  
2       horizontal ribs are located around a periphery portion of the vertical gasket.

1           8.       The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein the vertical gasket  
2       includes a bead roll, the diameter of the bead roll corresponding with a groove formed in  
3       an exterior surface of the canister.

1           9.     A twist-lock latch for use in a locking mechanism of a central  
2 vacuum system, the twist-lock latch comprising:  
3                 a first shelf portion to provide a resting area for a debris receptacle when  
4 the debris receptacle is locked into place; and  
5                 a stop detent that facilitates proper engagement of the debris receptacle.

1           10.    The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising a second shelf  
2 portion to provide a clearance area for a gasket.

1           11.    The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising a contoured  
2 ramp configured to guide a handle of a debris receptacle into place.

1           12.    The twist-lock latch of claim 9, further comprising at least one  
2 aperture for coupling the twist-lock latch to a canister portion of the central vacuum  
3 system via a fastener.

1           13.    The twist-lock latch of claim 9 having no moving parts.

1           14.    The twist-lock latch of claim 9 configured to latch with a  
2 conventional debris receptacle having a handle with a notch formed in a center portion of  
3 the handle.

1           15.    A vertical gasket employed with a locking mechanism for a  
2 central vacuum system, the vertical gasket comprising:  
3                 a vertical sealing area; and  
4                 a bead roll formed in the gasket, the bead roll configured to correspond  
5 with a groove formed in a canister portion of the central vacuum system.

1           16.    The vertical gasket of claim 15, wherein the vertical sealing  
2 area includes a plurality of ribs located thereon to facilitate reduced friction and drag  
3 during engagement and disengagement of the locking mechanism.

1            17.    The vertical gasket of claim 16, wherein the plurality of ribs  
2            are located around a periphery of the gasket.

1            18.    The vertical gasket of claim 15, wherein the bead roll is  
2            formed at an end portion of the gasket.

1            19.    A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system comprising:  
2            at least one twist-lock latch coupled to a canister; and  
3            a vertical gasket coupled to the canister.

1            20.    The locking mechanism of claim 19, wherein two twist-lock latches  
2            are coupled to the canister at opposing sides.

1            21.    A locking mechanism for a central vacuum system comprising:  
2            latching means for securing a debris receptacle to a canister; and  
3            sealing means for facilitating an air-tight seal between the debris receptacle  
4            and the canister.